



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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Georgia Department Of Revenue Encourages State's Taxpayers To File Electronically

ATLANTA – As Georgia residents begin receiving their W2 forms and start thinking about filing their 2000 income tax returns, the Georgia Department of Revenue encourages all taxpayers to consider filing electronically, either through a computer or using a telephone.

"Electronic filing will speed up a taxpayer's refund and also helps ensure that the return is accurately recorded with the state," said Bobby Goolsby, Director of the Department of Revenue's Income Tax Division.

Last year, approximately 890,000 Georgia taxpayers filed their federal and state returns electronically. This was a 33 percent increase over the previous year.

Individuals can file electronically employing one of the following methods: using a state approved tax preparation program on a personal computer, using a telephone, or having the return prepared by a professional who is a registered electronic return originator with the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Georgia.

"We are introducing telefiling of state returns this year," said Goolsby. "To be eligible, an individual must have received a federal telefiling packet from the IRS and a state telefiling packet from the DOR."

Goolsby explained the other criteria for state telefiling are:

- 1) Single taxpayer with no dependents.
- 2) Earn less than \$57,200 during 2000.
- 3) Have no more than 10 W2s.
- 4) And meet all Georgia filing requirements.

"Whether you file electronically using a computer or telefile, you must use the same method to file your federal return. And the federal return must be filed first. After you file your federal return, prompts will lead you through your state filing," Goolsby explained.

Goolsby cautioned telefilers to remain on the line until they received a confirmation number indicating their return had been accepted.

Another new feature this year allows taxpayers with a balance due to file electronically. Computer programs will print a payment voucher that must be mailed with the check or money order. Telefilers with a balance due should use the payment voucher on page 11 of the telefiling instructions to make their payments. In both cases, the payment vouchers must be post marked no later than April 16.

The Director alerted electronic filers that the Georgia Form 500, which they can print out on their computers, will differ from the form displayed in the tax workbook.

"The computer generate copy is formatted so it can be easily processed by DOR's electronic equipment," Goolsby said.

Individuals can obtain additional information by contacting one of DOR's 11 regional offices located throughout the state or by visiting the department's web site at www2.state.ga.us/departments/dor.

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